

# Exhibit K

SUPREME COURT OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

Z & J LLC d/b/a APPEALTECH,

Plaintiff,  
v.

LAURENCE MYNES, COUNSEL PRESS  
INC., GLADSTONE INVESTMENT  
CORPORATION, GLADSTONE  
MANAGEMENT CORPORATIONS,  
GLADSTONE ADMINISTRATION, LLC  
AND JONATHAN WALLACH,

Defendants.  
LAURENCE MYNES AND JONATHAN  
WALLACH,

Counterclaim Plaintiffs,  
v.  
Z & J LLC d/b/a APPEALTECH AND  
MICHAEL KESTAN, Jointly and  
Severally,  
Counterclaim Defendants.

NYSCEF CASE

Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan, J.S.C  
No. 650620/2018

VERIFIED COUNTERCLAIM ON  
BEHALF OF JONATHAN WALLACH

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendant and Counterclaim Plaintiff Jonathan Wallach, by and through his attorneys, Lipsky Lowe LLP, asserts the following counterclaim against Counterclaim Defendants Z & J LLC d/b/a AppealTech and Michael Kestan.

NATURE OF ACTION

1. This counterclaim arises from Counterclaim Defendants Z & J LLC d/b/a AppealTech and Michael Kestan employment of Counterclaim Plaintiff Jonathan Wallach. Wallach asserts a sexual harassment claim against AppealTech and Kestan under the New York City Human Rights Law.

2. On April 18, 2018, AppealTech filed the First Amended Complaint against Wallach. (Doc. No. 36).

3. On September 14, 2018, Wallach filed a Motion to Dismiss each claim asserted against him in the First Amended Complaint, preserving his right to file an Answer if any part of that Motion and subsequent appeal, if any, is denied.

#### JURISDICTION, VENUE & JURY DEMAND

4. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter because AppealTech is, upon information and belief, licensed to and does do business in the State of New York, and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this state.

5. Venue is proper in this County and this Court under C.P.L.R. § 503(c) because AppealTech's headquarters is in this County at 7 W. 36th Street, New York, New York

6. Wallach demands a trial by jury.

#### THE PARTIES

7. Wallach was, at all relevant times, an adult individual, residing in New York, New York.

8. AppealTech is a Delaware limited liability company that is authorized to do business in the State of New York.

9. Kestan was, at all relevant times, an adult individual, residing in New York, New York.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

10. AppealTech is an appellate service provider.

11. Kestan is the sole owner of AppealTech.

12. Wallach commenced employment with AppealTech in March 2014 as Senior

Appellate Counsel and reported to Kestan.

13. Kestan had the authority to discipline Wallach, review his performance, fire him, hire him, and affect his compensation and promotional opportunities.

14. Wallach is an openly gay man.

15. Kestan is an openly gay man.

16. Kestan treated Wallach less well than his peers because of his sexual orientation.

17. Throughout Wallach's employment, Kestan regularly made unwanted and unsolicited sexual remarks and overtures to Wallach.

18. Kestan continued to make these sexual remarks and overtures even when Wallach asked him to stop.

19. Kestan detailed on numerous occasions his sexual exploits for Wallach – over Wallach's requests for him not do so. He, for example, told Wallach that he contracted six cases of venereal disease.

20. Kestan did not share his sexual exploits with the non-gay male AppealTech employees.

21. Kestan insisted on Wallach giving him injections in his buttocks in a private room in the AppealTech office. When Wallach stated he would no longer do so, Kestan appeared at Wallach's house and dropped his pants in front of Wallach and Wallach's husband, demanding Wallach inject him.

22. In 2015, Kestan demanded Wallach's supply of PrEP, which is a pre-exposure prophylaxis for people who are at very high risk for HIV, because he was attending an orgy that weekend. Wallach refused. Kestan, consequently, refused to speak to Wallach for a month.

23. Kestan did not ask other AppealTech employees for PrEP or to inject him with

steroids.

24. Kestan did not expose himself to other AppealTech employees.
25. Throughout his employment, Kestan shared at least 50 sex stories with Wallach.
26. In 2015 and 2016, Kestan regularly invited Wallach to orgies, which Wallach always declined and requested not to be invited anymore.
27. In early 2016, Kestan expressed outrage at Wallach for Wallach blocking him on Grindr and Scruff (two gay dating applications).
28. In or about late 2016, after requesting he stop with his sexual overtures, Kestan angrily told Wallach that he did not realize Wallach would be “so boring” when he hired him and stormed out of his office and then refused to further speak with Wallach.
29. During his employment at AppealTech, Wallach did not receive any anti-harassment or anti-discrimination training.
30. AppealTech did not exercise reasonable care to prevent or promptly correct the harassing behavior asserted in this Counterclaim.
31. The continued sexual harassment has caused Wallach to have anxiety, sleepless nights, suffer from stress and headaches, to seek treatment from a mental health provider and to take Xanax.

**FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**SEXUAL HARASSMENT UNDER THE NEW YORK CITY HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AS  
AGAINST ALL COUNTERCLAIM DEFENDANTS**

32. Wallach repeats and realleges each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
33. At all relevant times, Wallach was an “employee” and “person” within the meaning of the NYCHRL and Counterclaim Defendants were “employers.”

34. Wallach was treated less well because of his sexual orientation, violating N.Y.C. Admin. Code § 8-107(1)(a).

35. AppealTech is strictly liable for the actionable hostile environment created by one of its supervisors who had immediate or successively higher authority over Wallach.

36. As a result of Counterclaim Defendants' harassment of him, Wallach has suffered and continues to suffer, *inter alia*, emotional distress, mental anguish, emotional pain, physical pain and suffering, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment of life and medical expenses.

37. Counterclaim Defendants harassed Wallach with malice and/or reckless indifference to his rights under the NYCHRL.

38. As a result of Counterclaim Defendants' unlawful conduct, Wallach can recover punitive damages against AppealTech. N.Y.C. Admin. Code § 8-502.

**PRAAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Wallach respectfully requests that this Court grant the following relief:

1. Accepts jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Impanels and charges a jury with respect to the causes of action.
3. Awards Wallach the following damages against Counterclaim Defendants:
  - a. Damages for pain and suffering, anxiety, humiliation, loss of enjoyment of life, physical injury and emotional distress, and medical expenses in order to compensate him for the injuries he has suffered and to signal to other employers that discrimination, harassment and retaliation are repulsive to legislative enactments in the amount of at least \$200,000.00;
  - b. An award of punitive damages under the NYCHRL in the amount of at least \$400,000;

- c. Attorneys' fees, costs and expenses to the fullest extent permitted by law;
- and
- d. Any other relief that this Court deems just and equitable.

Dated: New York, New York  
September 18, 2018

LIPSKY LOWE LLP

s/ Douglas B. Lipsky  
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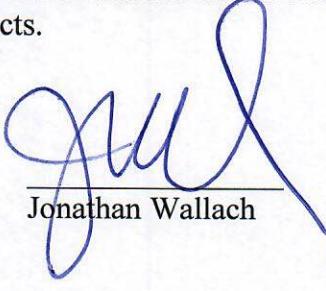
VERIFICATION

CHUR )  
) ss:  
SWITZERLAND )

JONATHAN WALLACH, being duly sworn and says:

1. I have read and know the contents of this Counterclaim is true to my knowledge, except as to matters stated to be on information and belief and, with respect to those matters, I believe them to be true.

2. My knowledge as to the factual matters in the Counterclaim is based upon my personal involvement in the underlying facts.



Jonathan Wallach